विज्ञान और प्रौद्योगिकी शिक्षा केन्द्र की स्थापना

2708. **श्री कनकसिंह मोहनसिंह मंगरोला:** क्या मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या देश में अमरीका के सहयोग से विज्ञान और प्रौद्योगिकी शिक्षा केन्द्र स्थापित किये जा रहे हैं;

(ख) यदि हां, तो ऐसे प्रस्तावित केन्द्रों की संख्या कितनी है;

(ग) ऐसे केन्द्रों की स्थापना हेतु किन-किन स्थानों का चयन किया गया है; और

(घ) क्या ये केन्द्र स्वतंत्र रूप से कार्य करेंगे या मंत्रालय उनके कार्यकरण में हस्तक्षेप करेगा?

मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय के शिक्षा विभाग में राज्य मंत्री (श्री मुही राम सैकिया): (क) जी, नहीं।

(ख) से (घ) प्रश्न नहीं उठते।

Use of Compressed Natural Gas in Automobile Sector

2709. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister for ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Government propose to seek aid from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) for use of compressed natural gas in the automobile sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the amount of aid likely to be received?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD): (a) and (b) A project titled "Reduction of GHG emissions by promoting the use of CNG as a fuel for petrol cars" was posed to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in August 1994, for assistance under the Global Environment Facility (GEF). This was a demonstration project for Mumbai city, prepared by the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Mumbai. The total cost of the project was indicated as US $ 14.3 million, of which GEF financing was to be US $ 8.03 million. However, the project was not found eligible for assistance under GEF by the UNDP.

Increase in the cost of life saving medicines

2710. SHRI ISH DUTT YADAV: SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK:

Will the Minister of CHEMICAL AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that during the last one or two years cost of medicines particularly life saving medicines has increased abnormally making them out of reach of the common man;

(b) if so, the increase in the cost of such medicines; and

(c) the step taken by Government to ensure that poor segments of the society in rural areas have access to life saving medicines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SHEES RAM OLA): (a) and (b) Like in other commodities, some price increase in the case of medicines is inevitable. However, studies conducted from time to time since December '94 do not indicate any general abnormal price increase. The WPI (1981-82=100) has shown an increase of 8.46% for Drugs & Medicines whereas the increase for All Commodities was higher at 9.07% during the period Jan'95 to July '96.

(c) Government has formulated an indicative list of emergency medicine kits as also of essential drugs for the guidance of State Governments to ensure availability through Primary Health Centres, manages by them through their Health Departments.